Loans by National Fisheries Development Board

1812. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are forming a National Fisheries Development Board;

(b) in what manner this would help the deep-sea fisheries;

(c) whether loans would be given by the Board to people to buy boats;

(d) the period of loan for such purchases; and

(e) the interest to be charged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) A National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001 to bring the major activities relating to fisheries and aquaculture for focused attention and professional management. The Board will, in the initial years, take up only such activities which will bring about fairly immediate results in production, marketing and improvement of infrastructure although there is provision for tuna processing through equity participation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question do not arise.

Shortage in Foodgrain Production

1813. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrain production is expected to be higher by 5.01 per cent at 208.30 million tonnes in 2005-06;

(b) whether it is also a fact that overall foodgrain output in 2005-06 fell short of the target of 215 million tonnes;

(c) it so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether this is the consecutive second year when the foodgrain production fell short of the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) As per the 4th Advance Estimates